Target Location, Designation and Hand-Off System (TLDHS)

Description

The TLDHS is a man-portable, automated equipment suite that provides Fire Support Observer/Controllers with the ability to accurately acquire, locate, laser designate, then digitally transmit (hand-off) target data to Fire Support platforms and agencies. The TLDHS consists of and integrates two systems: the Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder (LLDR) and the Target Hand-off System (THS). The LLDR provides the ability to observe, determine the location of and laser designate ground targets. The THS consists



of a tactical laptop computer called the Rugged Handheld Computer (RHC) with Target Hand-off System software. The THS provides capability to compose, edit, send and receive digital messages over tactical combat net radios. The digital messages are used to plan, coordinate and execute fire support missions by field artillery, close air support, and naval surface fire support. When the LLDR and THS are connected via an interconnecting cable there is total TLDHS capability.

Operational Impact:

TLDHS will increase the accuracy and timeliness of fire support, as well as improving the effects of fires on targets for surface and air-delivered munitions. The risk of fratricide is reduced by providing more accurate observer and target location data. Operator mobility is improved due to the modular system design and the reduced size and weight. Fire support logistics is improved by requiring less ammunition to obtain desired effects on targets.

Program Status

The LLDR is a Joint Army - USMC program (Army lead). The LLDR is scheduled to begin production in FY02 and the first production LLDRs should begin fielding in FY04. The LLDR and THS will be fielded on separate timelines as soon as each subsystem is ready. The RHCs and the THS are scheduled to be procured FY02 and FY03. The THS should be completely fielded by the end of FY03.

Procurement Profile FY02 FY03 Quantity: 60 89

Developer/Manufacturer LLDR: Northrop Grumman Laser Systems,

Apopka, FL

THS Software: Synetics Corporation,

King George, VA